

**Application Serial No. 10/607,285
Amendment dated 8/24/04
Office Action dated 03/24/04**

In the Drawings

These formal sheets are being submitted because (a) in Figure 4, the reference line for "44" should be extended to designate the rod end; (b) in Figure 7, the leftmost occurrence of "62" should be changed to "72"; and (c) in Figure 17, the line guide "30" should be changed to "130". Amendment has been made to Figures 4, 7 and 17 to make these corrections, thereby overcoming the objection to the drawings. Support for such amendment is found at page 13, paragraphs 48-50; page 14, paragraph 50; and page 20, paragraph 68, respectively, of the originally filed application. The proposed changes are indicated in red on attached copies. The formal drawings incorporate the proposed changes.

Acknowledgment of receipt of the formal drawing sheets and their acceptance into the file is requested.

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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-47 are pending in the application; that claims 3-5, 12-24, 28-30 and 32-47 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner (and cancelled herein by Applicant); that claims 6-7 and 31 are objected to; and that claims 1, 2, 8-11 and 25-27 are rejected. By this response, claims 3-5, 12-24, 28-30 and 32-47 have been cancelled, 1, 8, 9 and 25 have been amended, and new claims 48-65 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 2, 6-11, 25-27, 31, and 48-65 are pending in the application.

Examiner Conference

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephone call conducted on February 25, 2004. Applicant respectfully points out that its election was made without traverse of claims 1-41, Figures 1-7.

Corrected Drawing

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because (a) in Figure 4, the reference line for "44" should be extended to designate the rod end; (b) in Figure 7, the leftmost occurrence of "62" should be changed to "72"; and (c) in Figure 17, the line guide "30" should be changed to "130". Amendment has been made to Figures 4, 7 and 17 to make these corrections, thereby overcoming the objection to the drawings. Support for such amendment is found at page 13, paragraphs 48-50; page 14, paragraph 50; and page 20,

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paragraph 68, respectively, of the originally filed application.

Substitute sheets containing Figures 4, 7 and 17 have been submitted concurrently herewith by separate paper entitled "Letter Submitting Formal Drawings". A courtesy copy of such Letter Submitting Formal Drawings, with both a red-lined and corrected version of Figures 4, 7 and 17, is attached hereto. Indication of the acceptability of such drawing is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that claims 6, 7 and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant defers amendment to claims 6, 7 and 31 due to the amendment of independent claims 1 and 25.

Objections to Specification

The Examiner objected to reference number "48" on page 15, line 2, indicating it should be changed to "42". Such amendment has been made herein on page 2 [paragraph 0052], thereby overcoming the objection to the specification. Additionally, a corresponding amendment has been made to reference numeral "48" on page 14, line 24 [paragraph 0051].

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Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended in order to overcome the rejections.

Hence, Applicant asserts that claims 8 and 9 overcome the §112, second paragraph, rejection, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C., §102

Claims 1, 11, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Borba, Sr.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,507,069). Claims 1, 2, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Meisler* (U.S. Patent No. 2,306,638). Independent claims 1 and 25 have been amended to clarify the invention. Accordingly, the rejections under §102(b) for claims 1, 11 and 25 are believed to be overcome.

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C., §103

Claims 1, 2, 8-11, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Popeil* (U.S. Patent No. 4,027,419) in view of *Fox, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 2,538,306). Independent claims 1 and 25 have been amended to clarify the invention.

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Accordingly, the rejections under §103(a) are believed to be overcome.

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

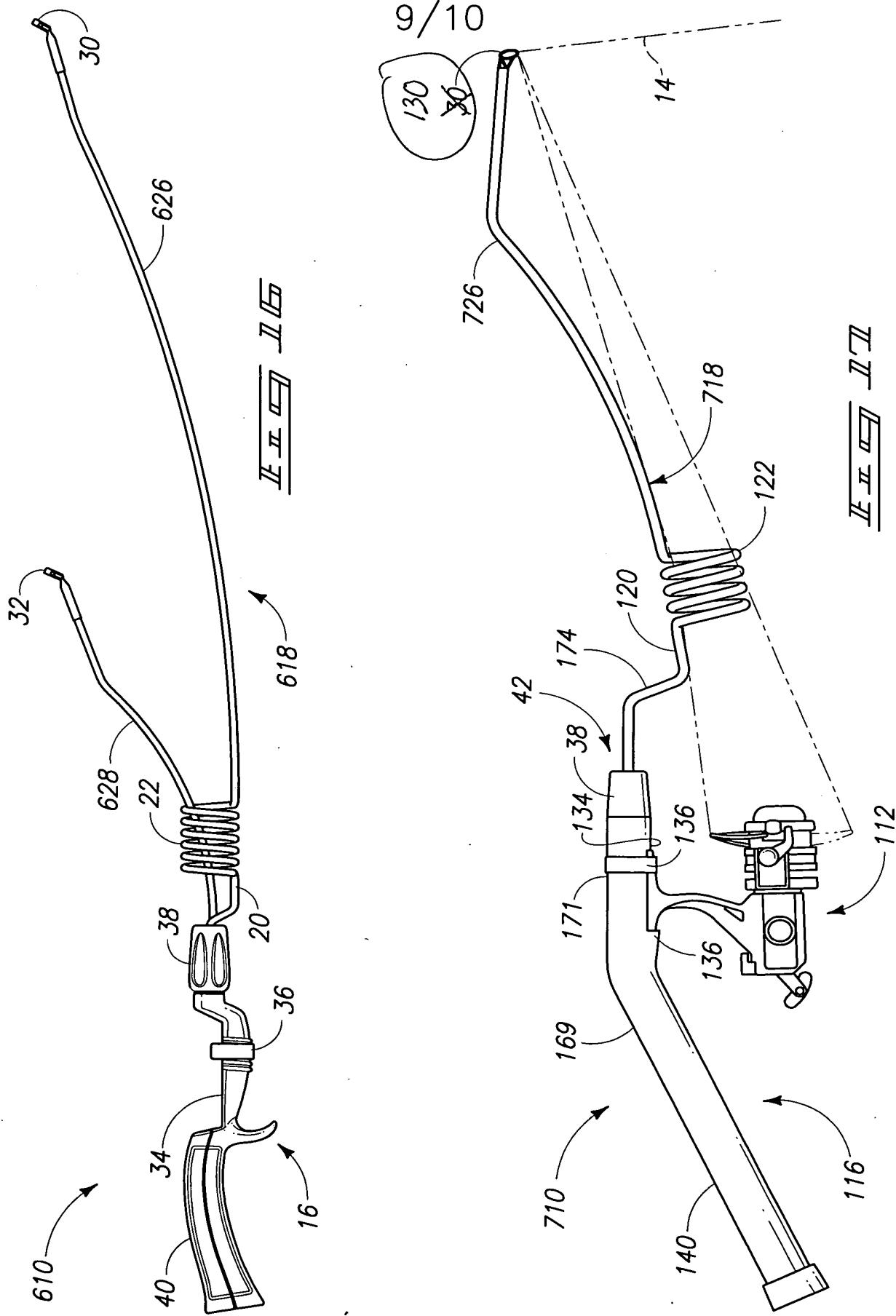
For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/24/04

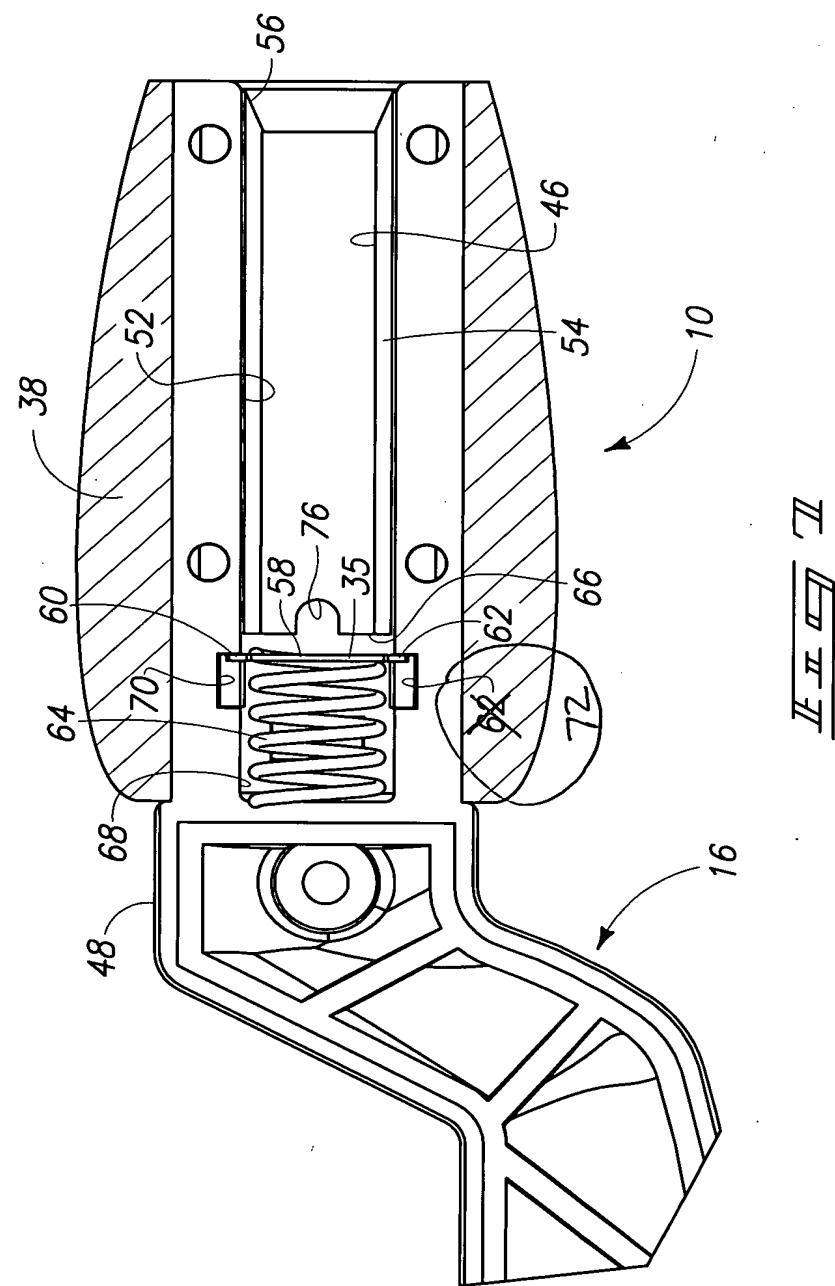
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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES



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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

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